ROUNDTABLE REPORT

DEEPENING AND SUSTAINING ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

JULY 24, 2019

Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation
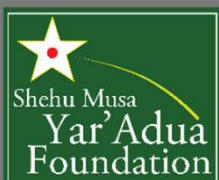
MacArthur Foundation

INTRODUCTION

An Anti-Corruption Stakeholder Roundtable was organized by the Yar'Adua Foundation on July 24, 2019 for selected On Nigeria grantees to foster collaboration and provide an opportunity to engage with advocacy tools and content designed to improve the effectiveness of their pro-accountability efforts.

The roundtable is part of an anti-corruption advocacy campaign to reduce retail corruption and galvanize community action to deepen and sustain anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria supported by the MacArthur Foundation.

The campaign seeks to empower pro-accountability stakeholders with advocacy tools to drive public conversations about accountability and transparency. The initiative encourages collaboration among civil society organizations and investigative journalists to amplify the impact and effectiveness of their work.

WELCOME

Mr. Amara Nwankpa, Director, Yar'Adua Foundation Public Policy Initiative, welcomed participants and provided a brief overview of the agenda. He stated the objectives of the roundtable and highlighted the importance of the Theory of Change (TOC) framework. He also outlined what grantees should be focused on in the second year of the project.

Figure 1- Mr. Amara Nwankpa, Director, Public Policy Initiative, Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation

Key points

- Continue citizen engagement
    - Create relevant content and promote on social media
    - Deploy Yar'Adua Foundation content
    - Sustain traditional media engagement
    - Measure effectiveness of citizen engagement
        - -Willingness to report failures in public service
        - -Willingness to demand improved service delivery
- Focus on tangible outcomes and impacts
    - Build capacity of local activists to instigate, document and track citizen demands for accountability
   - Use tools and platforms such as *Udeme, Tracka and FollowTheMoney*

- o   Adopt specific demands and work to have them met
  - Community projects
  - Electricity complaints
  - School feeding
  - Budget implementation gap
  - Campaign promises (template)
  - Community scorecard (template)
- Measure citizen satisfaction
  - o   Number of demands met
  - o   Degree of stakeholder satisfaction

Video Vignettes

Six advocacy videos produced by the Foundation were screened for participants.
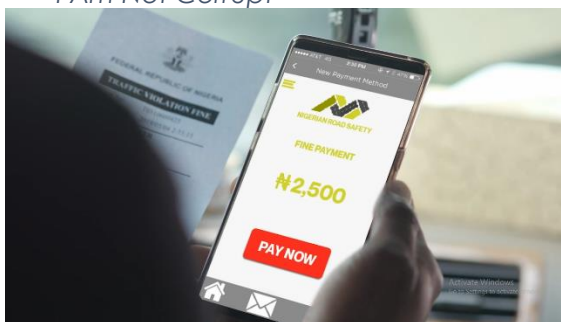

Greedy Spider
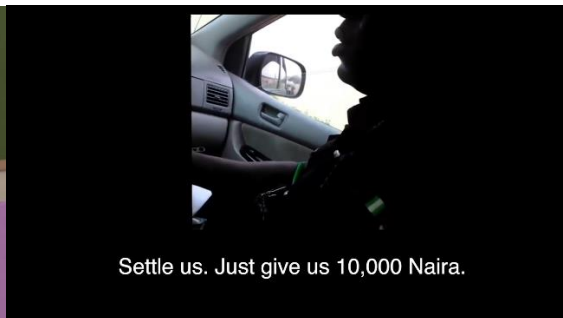
End SARS

I Am Not Corrupt

Monica Speaks Out

What If?

Using Corruption to Fight Corruption

Participants unanimously agreed that the video vignettes would be effective advocacy tools to deepen and sustain their anti-corruption and transparency efforts.

They also agreed to adopt them as part of their citizen engagement going forward.

PRESENTATIONS

Udeme

Ijeoma Okereke
Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism (PTCIJ)

Ms. Ijeoma Okere described *Udeme* as a social accountability platform designed to hold the Nigerian government accountable for funds released for developmental projects classified as capital, constituency and ecological projects.

Grantees can improve the effectiveness of their accountability efforts by utilizing the *Udeme* platform to track, investigate and report corruption in the implementation of constituency projects and state government budgets.

Figure 2- Ms. Ijeoma Okere, Programme Officer, Udeme, Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism (PTCIJ)

Key Points

- *Udeme* means "My Share"
- The platform was established to empower the affected communities to join in the fight against corruption
- Major challenges confronting Nigerian citizens include poor infrastructure, cultural orientation, delivery systems and road networks in addition to high mortality rates, unavailability of health workers, water problems and insufficient power supply.
- *Udeme* employs various tools including:
    - Investigative reporting
    - Data journalism
    - Budget tracking
    - Procurement audit
    - Impact tracking
- The *Udeme* project played a key role in exposing the forgery case against Nigeria's former Minister of Finance

- *Udeme* tracks selected developmental projects across all states in Nigeria
- Citizens and CSOs can reach out to the *Udeme* team on social media and through their website, www.udeme.ng
- PTCIJ is open to collaboration with grantees using the *Udeme* platform
- PTCIJ can train state level activists on identifying issues/cases that can be amplified, tracked and resolved using the platform

Follow the Money

Mukhtar Modibbo Halilu
Connected Development (CODE)

Follow the Money is an initiative of Connected Development founded to track government spending and the impact of international aid in marginalized and rural areas. CODE has established chapters in Kenya, Ghana, Liberia and Cameroon.

Mr. Halilu stated that grantees can utilize the platform to track government spending focused on local communities in their states.

CODE will provide support to activists and civil society organisations involved in accountability advocacy at the state level. He shared the case study of a *Follow the Money* project in Kaduna State that tracks UBE spending.

Figure 3- Mr. Mukhar Halilu, Assistant Community Manager, iFollowTheMoney, Connected Development (CODE)

Key points
- *Follow the Money* has reached 122 communities, 17 states, 3,290,849 citizens on social media, impacted 523,000 rural lives and tracked $1 million
- The project aims to strengthen the capacity of School Monitoring Teams comprised of Community Based Associations (CBAs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Parent Teacher Associations (PTA), Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) and the School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) to conduct high quality tracking of the UBEC spending in 70 schools in Kaduna State within a span of 3 years

- Milestones (Year one)
  - Targeted 23 schools from 4 LGAs: Jama'a, Kajuru, Kudan and Zango Kataf
  - 16 projects from the state's 2014 UBE Action Plan and 7 projects from the 2015 Action Plan were tracked
  - NGN 569,579,737.83 (USD 1.5 million) was tracked
  - *Follow the Money* radio initiated
  - Capacity of aforementioned monitoring agents was enhanced
  - Project implementation across 23 schools; channeled project was monitored
  - Implementation findings (three reports) shared with Kaduna SUBEB for redress
- Findings

  - A number of projects implemented across the board by contractors were of poor quality
  - Kad-SUBEB does not allow the School Based Management Committees (SBMCs) to act in a sufficiently autonomous manner to monitor projects.
  - SBMCs had no prior knowledge of the school projects

Tracka

Henry Omokhaye
BudgIT

Mr. Henry Omokhaye explained that *Tracka* is a community of active citizens tracking the implementation of government projects in their community to ensure service delivery.

Grantees can report and track public projects in their various states using the *tracka* platform. BudgIT can provide technical support to grantees in order to improve service delivery in their respective states.

Grantees can also use *Tracka* to access simplified versions of budgets for their respective states.

Figure 4- Mr. Henry Omokhaye, Programme Officer, Research, BudgIT

Key Points

- *Tracka* examines government projects (roads, health centres and schools)

- Citizens can report and upload pictures on *Tracka* for tracking
- Simplified state budgets can be found on *Tracka*
- Workflow:
  - Identify constituency projects
  - Visit project location and confirm status
  - Community engagement: townhall meetings
  - Online engagement (website: www.tracka.ng, Twitter: @trackang)
  - Engagement with government and law makers
  - FOI requests
- 1,313 projects tracked: 189 abandoned projects, 207 non-executed, 213 ongoing projects, 488 completed and 216 unspecified projects
- 50% of constituency projects are empowerment projects that are difficult to track
- Empowerment projects grew from N41 billion in 2016 to N54 billion in 2017
- Prevailing trends of constituency projects
  - Predominately empowerment projects
  - Non-execution of projects
  - Under delivery of projects
  - Use of sub-standard materials
  - Unspecified project locations
  - Contract inflation
  - Lack of constituency awareness
  - Tax-funded government projects donations
  - Conversion of public project to personal property
  - Abandonment of projects
- Open data of contract details must be prioritised to ensure citizen participation in contract awards
- Representatives should routinely engage their constituents in the budget-making process to ensure their needs are captured in annual fiscal plans
- Project specification should be more detailed for easy access by citizens
- Contract awards must be coordinated through relevant federal ministries
- Citizens can enquire about the *Tracka* platform by emailing info@tracka.ng

Discussion

Amara Nwankpa provided a recap of presentations and offered valuable insights into the necessity of grantee collaboration. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and make comments on presentations and previous discussions.

SUMMARY

1. Grantees agreed that there is no need to reinvent the wheel if they can leverage content from CSOs across other cohorts to further improve their advocacy efforts.
2. PRIMORG highlighted their work in the following areas:
   - Social media engagement
   - Amplification of investigative reports after due diligence
   - Distribution/broadcast of content or publicity
   - Translation of content into local languages
   - Radio townhall meetings

PRIMORG informed participants of their willingness to amplify and distribute state-level investigative reports across their radio syndication in the Southeast and Lagos.

3. AFRICMIL outlined their efforts around whistleblowing in Nigeria
    o Collaboration with Ministry of Finance to implement whistleblowing policy and provide support and protection for whistle-blowers
    o Collaboration with anti-corruption agencies including ICPC and EFCC to follow up on whistleblowing and anti-corruption cases
    o Anonymous reports can be filed via www.corruptionanonymous.org

AFRICMIL seeks to expand its work to the community level and encouraged participants to utilize its platform to report whistle-blowing cases.

4. BudgIT, CODE and PTCIJ expressed their interest in training state-level actors to utilise their respective tools, focusing on project implementation and budget tracking to promote transparency and accountability.

Figure 4- Participants during discussion

CLOSING REMARKS

Mrs. Hauwa Kazeem, MacArthur Foundation, thanked partners for participating in the anti-corruption roundtable. She stated that the MacArthur Foundation considered collaboration among pro-accountability actors critical to achieving the goals of the ON Nigeria Programme.

PARTICIPANTING ORGANISATIONS

- Alliances for Africa (AFA)
- Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL)
- Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR)
- Centre for Women and Adolescents Empowerment (CWAE)
- Network for Justice (NFJ)
- Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN)
- Youth Adolescent Reflection and Action Centre (YARAC)
- BudgIT
- Connected Development Initiative (CODE)
- Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)
- Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
- Accountability Lab
- Social Development Integrated Centre (Social Action)
- African Centre for Media &Information Literacy
- Youth Initiative for Advocacy Growth and Advancement (YIAGA)
- Progressive Impact Organization for Community Development (PRIMORG)
- Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism (PTCIJ)
- International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR)
- Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation
- Signature Communications Limited
- News Diary Online
- Chatham House
- Daily Trust Foundation
- MacArthur Foundation